

REMARKS

In light of the amendments above and remarks to follow, entry of this amendment and reconsideration and allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-7 and amended claims 1, 8, and 9 are pending in this application.

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the abstract and drawings because the term “lauter” is not found in any general usage dictionary, or in either the IEEE Authoritative Dictionary or the Microsoft Computer Dictionary. It is respectfully submitted that the term “lauter” has been defined in the specification on page 14, lines 12-13. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objections to the abstract and drawings are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Holroyd et al. (5,781,435).

Independent claim 1 recites in part as follows:

“...wherein the control means cause concerted operation of respective parts of said at least one input processing means, said at least one output processing means, and said switching means on the basis of said control command...”

It is respectfully submitted that Holroyd as applied by the Examiner (hereinafter, merely “Holroyd”) does not appear to disclose the above-recited feature as in amended claim 1.

For reasons similar to those described above with regard to claim 1, amended independent claims 8 and 9 are believed to be distinguishable from Holroyd.

Claims 2-7 depend from claim 1, and, due to such dependency, are believed to be distinguishable from Holroyd for at least the reasons previously described.

In the event, that the Examiner disagrees with any of the foregoing comments concerning the disclosures in the cited reference, it is requested that the Examiner indicate where, in the reference, there is the basis for a contrary view.

In view of the foregoing, entry of this amendment, favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-9 and the allowance of this application with claims 1-9 are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP

By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dennis M. Smid', is written over a horizontal line.

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